



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XVIII
No. 28

JULY 22, 1996

U.S. SEN. BOXER'S NUMBERS AREN'T GOOD IN THE NEW FIELD POLL. WILSON LEADS REPUBLICANS.

Editor's note: U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D-CA) isn't up for reelection until 1998, but if the election were held now, she might be in big trouble. Here's our update & analysis...

...The latest survey from pollster Mervin Field shows Sen. Boxer's reelect number at only **34%**. That's not good news because the political rule of thumb says if an incumbent's reelect number is below 50%, it's a sign of weakness. What's even more troubling is that in this current sample taken between June 10-16 among 719 registered voters (w/288 Republican sub-sample), **48%** aren't inclined to support her reelection in 1998...

...Why does Boxer appear to be so vulnerable at this point? Here's what our sources say: 1) Her 1992 campaign against Bruce Herschensohn was tough, even though she won by 529,000 votes (47.9% vs. 43.0%); it certainly was not a coronation as backers saw a 20 point lead vanish; 2) from 1992 through 1994, Boxer deferred to her senate colleague - Dianne Feinstein, especially in the area of press coverage; 3) with the exceptions of her give-no-quarter attack on former U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood and her pro-partial birth abortion stand, most of the issues she's championed these past four years haven't made the 5 p.m. local tv news; 4) the perception is that Boxer is far to the left of Calif.'s moderate center; and 5) Boxer's Demo base isn't as strong as it should be --- in the Field Poll, 48% of the Demos are inclined to vote for her in 1998, while 29% are not inclined, and a large 23% of Demos are undecided. These numbers have to improve if she is to have a shot at reelection...

...As for the Republicans, Field listed both a four(4) way GOP primary and a three(3) way primary. In a 4 way battle, Gov. Pete Wilson gets 44%, compared

to U.S. Reps. Tom Campbell at 9%, Chris Cox and David Dreier both at 7%, with 32% undecided. With Wilson excluded, Campbell gets 21%, Cox 16% and Dreier 11%, with 52% undecided. FYI: When Campbell ran in the 15th CD special last year, he said he was NOT going to run for the U.S. Senate in 1998. We'll have to wait and see...

...But our sources predict a much larger GOP field, caused mainly by term limits and the open primary. Other names on a long list include: State Senate GOP Leader Rob Hurtt of Orange Co., U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo of Stockton, U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan of Orange Co., former GOP Assembly Leader (soon to be State Senator with a free ride in 1998) Jim Brulte of San Berdu or perhaps GOP Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle of Orange Co. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: TORT WARS - ROUND 2 UNDERWAY.

Editor's note: From events this past week, it's very obvious that Tort Wars - Round II is almost ready for prime time. We're talking about Props. 207 & 211. Prop. 207 allows attorneys to negotiate whatever fees they want, while 211 makes it easier for attorneys to sue publicly-held companies. Here is our update & analysis...

...In case you missed it, NO on 211 (aka Taxpayers Against Frivolous Lawsuits) aired its first negative tv ad over the weekend (July 13-14). Kind of confusing in terms of the visual imagery, but the verbal message was clear: lawyers have come up with another initiative that spells bad news for Calif. taxpayers & businesses. NO on 211 HQ ☎(916)774-0637...

...The other piece of news concerning 207 & 211 was that the Executive Board of the CA Democratic Party (CDP) has endorsed both propositions, despite objections from a number of Demo officeholders. This in

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310) 659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$90.00/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHT BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SEC. OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

itself is rather significant. Our focus is on 211...

...Speaking to the CDP's "E Board" on July 13 in Manhattan Beach, State Controller Kathleen Connell, U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (S.F.) and Assemblyman Louis Caldera (L.A.) urged "E Board" members to *stay neutral* and not take sides on 211. In addition, E Board members were given three(3) different sets of letters urging neutrality on 211 --- one from a group of Demo U.S. House members (signed by Harman, Fazio, Eshoo, Condit, Farr & Lofgren); and another letter from Legislative Demos (signed by Assemblymembers Alpert, Davis, Bowen, Figueroa, Vasconcellos, Mazzoni, Napolitano, Ducheny, Campbell, Hauser, Martinez, Tucker, Escutia, Sweeney and Caldera + State Sen. Jim Costa). A third letter was from former DNC/CDP Chair Chuck Manatt and former CDP Chair Peter Kelly...

...Caldera told CALPEEK that the CDP's "E Board" decision to endorse 211 was a *knee jerk position* and this endorsement "hurts those of us who are trying to move the party into a mainstream position." Also criticizing the endorsement was The Assn. for Calif. Tort Reform (ACTR). They accused trial lawyers of using "strong arm tactics," especially on Prop. 211...

...However, as CALPEEK has noted in the past, there **isn't** much evidence (so far at least) that the trial lawyers (now known as Consumer Attorneys of CA) are putting money or effort behind 211. That initiative's key sponsor is San Diego attorney Bill Lerach. And our sources say it was Lerach and YES on 211 media consultant Bill Carrick who were at the CDP's E Board meeting, lobbying for an endorsement. In fact, our sources continue to say that the Consumer Attorneys of CA will pretty much stay out of Tort Wars - Round II. Why? Because Prop. 207 is totally unnecessary due to the loss of Prop. 202 in the March 26th primary...

...FYI: Despite what we've just said, there is a **NO** on 207 committee known as *The Coalition Against Unfair Attorneys Fees*. This committee is being run out of the offices of ACTR in Sacto. ☎(916)443-4900. The contacts are John Sullivan or Mike Carpenter. Stay tuned...

CALIF. BALLOT MEASURES RECEIVE NUMBERS.

Editor's note: Here a brief rundown of all the ballot measures **with** their assigned numbers...

Prop. 204 - The Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act (SB 900 - Costa); \$995 million bond measure...

Prop. 205 - Local juvenile & adult correctional facilities bond (AB 3116 - Brulte); \$700 million bond measure...

Prop. 206 - Veterans' Bond Act of 1996 (SB 852 - Rogers); \$400 million bond measure...

Prop. 207 - Attorneys Fees - Frivolous Lawsuits...

Prop. 208 - Campaign Reform I (Common Cause, United We Stand, LWV - key sponsors)...

Prop. 209 - CCRI...

Prop. 210 - Minimum Wage Increase...

Prop. 211 - Attorney-Client Fee/Securities Fraud (Bill Lerach - key sponsor)...

Prop. 212 - Campaign Reform II (CalPIRG - key sponsor)...

Prop. 213 - Uninsured Motorist/Drunk Drivers (Insurance Comm. Quackenbush - key sponsor)...

Prop. 214 - Health Care I (Health Access Coalition, SEIU - key sponsors)...

Prop. 215 - Medical Use of Marijuana...

Prop. 216 - Health Care II (CNA/Rosenfield - key sponsors)...

Prop. 217 - Top Income Tax Brackets...

Prop. 218 - Jarvis/Gann IV...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: SOME ODDS AND ENDS.

Editor's note: Here are some items of interest regarding initiatives on the Nov. 5th ballot...

● **CDP Endorsements** - The CA Democratic Party (CDP) has endorsed Props. 204, 205, 206, 207, 210, 211, 214 & 217. The CDP went **NO** on 208 & 212 (Campaign Reform I & II); **NO** on 209 (CCRI); **NO** on 213 (uninsured motorist/drunken drivers); and **NO** on 218 (Jarvis/Gann IV). The CDP's "E Board" took a **no recommendation** stand on 215 (medical use of marijuana) and on 216 (health care II - CNA/Rosenfield)...

● **Prop. 218** - You may have noticed that beginning this week we're calling Prop. 218 - Jarvis/Gann IV instead of Jarvis/Gann II. The first Jarvis/Gann measure (Prop. 13) was passed in 1978. Then came Prop. 62 which was approved in 1986, but the CA Supreme Court ruled parts of 62 were unconstitutional. And then the 3rd measure was Prop. 136 in 1990 (an attempt to validate those parts struck down by the court), but it failed. So that's why 218 is J/G IV...

● **Water Warriors' Windfall** - The last time CA voters approved a water bond measure was in 1988. There was a water bond measure in November of 1990, but Prop. 148 got only 43.8% and lost. It's six years later and now we've got Prop. 204, The Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act, authored by State Sen. Jim Costa(D-Fresno). SB 900 is a \$995 million bond measure, with \$600 million going to restore the eco system of the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta. RFPs were sent out by Costa recently and we should be hearing something about the campaign itself very soon. Key backers of 204 include Central Valley ag interests & the MWD. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Editor's note: Here's another update on some key House races in 1996...

☒ **Tree Huggers' Hit List** - The Sierra Club and the CA League of Conservation Voters(CLCV) are pretty much in agreement on whom they want to support & oppose in 1996. At the top of the **HIT list** for both groups are: Riggs(R-1st CD); Baker(R-10th CD), Seastrand(R-22nd CD); and Bilbray(R-49th CD). On the **protected list**, both groups are backing Farr(D-17th CD), Harman(D-36th CD) and Filner(D-50th CD). But the Sierra Club and CLCV part company in the 38th CD, where incumbent GOP U.S. Rep. Steve Horn of Long Beach faces Demo challenger Rick Zbur. The Sierra Club backs Horn, while CLCV is backing Zbur. The Sierra club is aware of Horn's 46% environment scorecard by the LCV, but noted that Horn was the only GOPer on the CA House delegation that voted FOR the CA Desert Protection Act...

☒ **1st CD** - U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs(R-Napa) really stepped in it when his campaign distributed copies of a Human Events (a conservative magazine) article to voters in the 1st CD which compared Michela Alioto

and her family (her grandfather is former S.F. Mayor Joe Alioto) to the family of Benito Mussolini - the fascist dictator of Italy prior to and during WWII. Not only was the article mailed, but it was displayed in the window of Riggs' campaign HQ. Alioto has grabbed hold of this issue (bigotry) and won't let go, riding it now for about 10 days --- and she refuses to accept Riggs' apology. Riggs' campaign has not handled this screw up well and during an anti-Riggs demonstration in Napa, someone from the Riggs campaign compounded the buffoonery by saying, "The Democratic Party is associated with the Mafia." Not too smart. This story will escalate and sources say the Nat'l Italian American Foundation will issue a statement soon. Stay tuned...

MORE SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS.

Editor's note: For those who enjoy reading political fiction & non-fiction books, here's Part II of a reading list which might interest you...

◆ Is Newsweek columnist & CBS commentator Joe Klein the author of Primary Colors? - AKA Anonymous??? The Washington Post says yes, based upon handwriting samples. Klein's reply: It's me...

◆ *A Stranger Among Friends* by gay Demo activist David Mixner received an excellent review from NY Times columnist Frank Rich. He described Mixner's book as "impassioned"...

◆ *Blood Sport: The President & His Adversaries* by James B. Stewart. All about Whitewater...

◆ *The Choice* by Bob Woodward of the Washington Post was cut to pieces in a book review by L.A. Times Nat'l Correspondent John Balzar. The book is about Clinton vs. Dole in '96...

◆ *Primary Whites* by Anonymous. Haven't read it, but it's billed as a novel about right-wing politics...

◆ *Truman* by David McCullough. Our sources rate this bio very high on the list of all-time favorites...

◆ *A Rage for Justice - The Passion & Politics of Phillip Burton* by John Jacobs...

◆ *Never Let Them See You Cry* by Jerry Roberts (Dianne Feinstein's bio)...

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ **3 Strikes Shenanigans** - SB 331 by GOP Senate Leader Rob Hurtt has stalled in the Senate's Criminal Procedures Cmt. - meaning Hurtt's bill to reverse the CA Supreme Court's ruling isn't going anywhere for the time being. Hurtt says his bill is dead (Hurtt called the action to stall the bill a "*high tech lynching*"), but our sources predict there will be an acceptable compromise worked out by the time the Legislature's summer recess is over. What's clear is this: Hurtt and some GOP political strategists would like to use 3 Strikes as a '96 campaign issue, but considering that 6 of 7 Supreme Court Justices who issued the 3 Strikes decision were appointed by GOP governors (and these jurists aren't soft on crime), that charge may not fly. FYI: during the hearing, lawmakers played a videotape from 2 years ago where 3 Strikes author Mike Reynolds of Fresno said his measure would give judges the necessary room to overlook non-violent/petty crime. Very interesting...

■ **Coastal Commission Follies** - After weeks of speculation that the now GOP controlled Coastal Commission was ready to fire long time Exec. Director Peter Douglas, the CC's acting chair, Louis Calcagno, backed down and put Douglas' future on hold --- our bet is until after the Nov. 5th election. Lots of pressure keep Douglas from tree hugger groups and from at least 2 GOP lawmakers with potentially tough elections in November: Assemblymen Jim Cunneen and Bruce McPherson...

■ **Same Sex Marriage Political Fallout** - On a 342 to 67 vote, the U.S. House voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act. Among CA's House delegation, all GOP members voted YES, along with Demos Gary Condit, Cal Dooley, Vic Fazio and Bob Filner. While Condit is a slam dunk for reelection, it's expected that Dooley, Fazio and Filner will have tough races. Filner also may be looking at '98, when the open primary takes effect. He needs to shore up his moderate base. A Field Poll showed 57% opposed and 35% in favor of same sex marriages. The Field Poll was taken June 10-16 among 719 registered voters...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● The L.A. office of Rose & Kindel has hired Frederic MacFarlane as an associate. He'll work with clients on PR and other media-related projects...

● Assemblyman Dom Cortese(RP-San Jose) has been appointed to the watchdog Little Hoover Commission by Speaker Curt Pringle(R-Garden Grove)...

● PA/political consultant Joy Howell (Howell Communications) is off to the Kennedy School of Govt. at Harvard U for an MPA in Public Affairs...

● Assembly Demo Leader Richard Katz has appointed savvy campaign pro Darry Sragow as a consultant to the Assembly Demo campaign committee...

● One of SCE's top lobbyists, David Takashima, has departed the utility company and returned to work for his old boss, State Sen. Steve Peace(D-Chula Vista)...

● Sally Stewart has departed USA Today after 12 years to become Director of Communications for Public Counsel - the largest pro bono public interest law firm in the U.S., based in L.A....

● The L.A. office of Edelman PR Worldwide has won a Golden World Award from IPRA for its work with L.A.'s residential curbside recycling program...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **The Calif. League of Conservation Voters** is seeking skilled organizers with political campaign experience to provide assistance in CLCV targeted priority campaigns. Exact duties will vary according to skills level and campaign needs. Qualifications include campaign experience, personal maturity and demonstrated leadership skills. Salary: \$400-\$500 per week, depending on experience. Contact Sarah Rose at (415)896-5550, ext. 309 for an application and information...

CALPEEK's Marketplace Network is a listing of employer and employee availabilities for those engaged in campaign consulting, public affairs, public relations, government relations and legislative advocacy. The cost for each listing is \$25 for up to 40 words. Add \$5 for each additional 10 words. Send ad copy with payment to CALPEEK's Marketplace Network, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213. For info (310)659-0205...